



RE: Hamden Fathers Basketball-Rental Costs for Hamden Middle School on Sundays

From RICHARD SHULTZ <richardshultz@sbcglobal.net>

Date Tue 10/1/2024 3:22 PM

To input, public <publicinput@hamden.org>

 1 attachments (413 KB)

BOE Letter Signed.pdf;

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To be read at : Finance Committee Meeting & Board of Education Meeting

Good afternoon everyone;

We understand that there is a Board of Education Special Operations Committee Meeting tonight.

Hamden Fathers Basketball is requesting what the rental rate for the HMS gym usage on Sundays.

My attached letter raises some of our concerns with our Hamden youth players.

If we could determine a rental cost perhaps we could seek donations from sponsors.

We would be using the gym for our High School 15-17 year old league and for our Travel Teams.

We do understand budget constraints the Board of Education presently has.

We also need to have access to the gym in the future and would suggest to the Town of Hamden seek funding through grants as other municipalities have done to receive funding for their programs. We are a Town program with Town youth and we've been Chartered through the Town since 1955.

The future of our program lies in the balance moving forward. When our program began the Hamden Parks & Recreation Department ran the league and paid all costs for insurance, gym attendants, scorers and referees which we now pay out of our budget and have since the late 1970's. We have increased our rates by \$10 to make get our budget to break even. With the advent of rental costs we may have to consider handing the league operations back over to the Town of Hamden.

Our gym usage request will be going to the meeting tonight as it is on the agenda. I would like this email and letter brought up at the BOE Finance Committee Meeting & Board of Education Meeting during their next meetings on October 10.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Richard Shultz

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Thank You

From The Desk of Richard K Shultz
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HAMDEN FATHERS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

September 26, 2024

RE: Hamden Fathers Basketball- Rental Costs of Hamden Middle School

To The Hamden Board of Education;

This letter is to ask the BOE what the rental costs would be to use Hamden Middle School on Sundays.

We would use the gym for our High School Boys League & Travel Basketball teams.

The High School League came into being in 1973. At that time we were using Hamden High School. Travel Basketball has become an important element of our program. It helps our players develop their skills against better competition. Those games are on Sundays. Our league rule is that travel players must play on their recreational teams on Saturday to be eligible for Sundays. We are one of the few towns left that offers a full recreation program starting at age 5 while still offering a respected high level travel program.

Hamden Fathers Basketball Travel Program is the feeder program for both the Boys & Girls teams at Hamden High School. The Girls team has now won back to back LL State Championships mostly with players from our league. The 3 All-State players from last year's team are all alumni of our Travel Team.

Our high school league is comprised of many at risk young men aged 15-17. This is one of their few outlets for athletics. The competitiveness on Sundays is great to watch. They play with enthusiasm and hang out all day in the gym until the last game concludes.

As life long Hamden residents, our E-Board members recognize the importance of a safe place for our Town's youth, particularly on the weekends when school is not in session.

We recognize your budget constraints, however we feel we should not deny the importance of extracurricular activities for our Town's youth. We appreciate your consideration and support
If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely Yours;



Richard K Shultz Sr.

President

Hamden Fathers Basketball Association

Established by the Town of Hamden in 1955

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CC: File



Outlook

Concerns For Hamden Youth Sports

From Ken S. <ken.sweeten@gmail.com>

Date Mon 10/7/2024 4:40 PM

To Melissa Kaplan <makaplan6@yahoo.com>; Downhour, Peter <pdownhour@hamden.org>; Asbery, David Lee <dasbery@hamden.org>; Ciccarini, Mario <mciccarini@hamden.org>; Hill, Nancy <nhill@hamden.org>; Johnson, Greta <gjohnson@hamden.org>; Piscitelli, Christopher <cpiscitelli@hamden.org>; Shea, Kevin <kshea@hamden.org>; Tamarro, Andrew <atamarro@hamden.org>; Karen Bivens <kbivens@hamden.com>; Arnie Mann <jtigsta@gmail.com>; rickmelvin614@yahoo.com <rickmelvin614@yahoo.com>; RICHARD LEONARDO <rjleo2@aol.com>; ryanott24@gmail.com <ryanott24@gmail.com>; Laurie Sweet <lsweet@hamden.com>; Katie Kiely <kkiely@hamden.com>; Ted Stevens <tstevens@hamden.com>; Dominique Baez <dbaez@hamden.com>; banthony@hamden.com <banthony@hamden.com>; tfiglar@hamden.com <tfiglar@hamden.com>; thunt@hamden.com <thunt@hamden.com>; scardwell@hamden.com <scardwell@hamden.com>; jalston@hamden.com <jalston@hamden.com>; aosmanu@hamden.com <aosmanu@hamden.com>; sgallagher@hamden.com <sgallagher@hamden.com>; rcaldwell@hamden.com <rcaldwell@hamden.com>; pirvin@hamden.com <pirvin@hamden.com>; awebber@hamden.com <awebber@hamden.com>; Highsmith, Gary <ghighsmith@hamden.org>; Calvin McGee <hurricanesfootball@comcast.net>; carlsargolini@sbcglobal.net <carlsargolini@sbcglobal.net>; RICHARD SHULTZ <richardshultz@sbcglobal.net>; bcofrin@gmail.com <bcofrin@gmail.com>; michael.defelice1124@gmail.com <michael.defelice1124@gmail.com>; Hamden Heronettes <hamdenheronettes@gmail.com>; input, public <publicinput@hamden.org>

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As I write yet another email in support of Hamden's youth sports leagues, I sit here equally confused and outraged. We, Hamden Parls & Rec Commision alongside Mayor Garrett, originally met with individuals from the Board of Education and Legislative Council for a discussion on excluding seven Hamden-based league run by volunteers, comprised of Hamden students, from having to pay rental fees for school property. Since then, leagues are hit with custodial fees and the BOE and HPS have encouraged youth organizations to not play on weekends at all, which is absurd.

There have been multiple issues ranging from field access and scheduling to the proposed elimination of sports at Hamden Middle School. Those issues center on the Board of Education and Hamden Superintendent's budget request, which was less than he wanted and has resulted in the continued mistreatment of youth sports. I mention the two together because Mr. Highsmith likes to point to the money he didn't get from the town as the reason to charge leagues.

I would like to inform you that I will attend your meeting on Oct. 8, 2024, at 7 p.m. I plan to invite representatives (CC'd) of various youth sports leagues.

I would also like to request answers to these questions:

1. Why was overtime for janitorial services not budgeted for as they were in the past?
The concerns for overtime and the issues that have been created as a result were never an issue during the previous superintendent's time.

2. Has Mr. Highsmith instructed HPS administration and staff at Hamden High School to not schedule youth sports at Hamden High School and other elementary schools?
3. Have you instructed your administration to delay scheduling youth sports in general? *Most youth sports submit schedules months in advance. In one instance, Hamden Football was informed less than 48 hours in advance of an event that they would not have access to equipment and restrooms as there was no custodian assigned for that day.*
4. Can the BOE and Mr. Highsmith justify salary increases to administration at central office, as were approved in September's meeting, while citing financial burdens that affect youth organizations? Those would be the youth recreational organization comprised of student at Hamden Public Schools.

Thank you,
Ken Sweeten
Town of Hamden Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman
ken.sweeten@gmail.com
203-917-5787 (Call or Text)